The Early Worm

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1 Thess.5:21 Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.

There is an attitude onthe part of a certain type of religious man that I have always despised- the man who tries to show his humility by claiming to be no more than a worm in the dust. He is not unworthy before God, but utterly worthless. It remainds me of the visit of the minister to the home of such a man. "Dear Lord, bless this worm and all the little worms, Amen

On the other hand, I have reached the comclusion that many humans show about as much intelligence as has the worm, and consequently suffers the same fate as do many worms. "The early bird catches the worm". Yes, and it is the worm that gets caught. Bird stands for shrewdness while worm stands for gullibility and lack of sense.

The motto,"Save and Have" which the banks flaunt before our eyes constantly is a good one, but does not always work out that way. Our poor houses are full of those who saved for a life-time, then invested in some blue sky and lost all they ever had.

Sometime misfortune will sweep away the savings of a life-time. Mrs.Dyer.

I recently read a story of a boy who went out to find a long-lost gold mine, he himself became lost and there hovered over him three large vultures who were waiting to eat his flesh and pick his bones.

There are countless human vultures ever ready to fleece the gullible and the ignorant out of all they have; ever ready to take advantage of a person's misfortune to rob him of all he has.

Where there are buzzards there is carrion. There there are human vultures flying about there are early worms that are ready to be caught. The fact that every year in this country a billion dollars is lost to such vultures proves that there are plenty of worms to be had.

Were you ever visited by such a creature? He makes you feel that his condenscension to pay you a call is a fortune in itself. He makes you thnik that you have known him for many years and you wonder that you cannot recall his name. As he presents his proposit he touches you familiarly and causes yo r heart of confidence to palpitate perceptibly. In his

2. most touching way he tells you that there is some mighty good money in oil stock just now. And ten minutes afterwards there is some mighty good money in oil stock- your money. And you possess a little green certificate- your diploma ~~if~~ from the school of hard knocks. And if you not are knocked too hard and are a real worm, in a short time you will be honored with the presence of another such bird, presenting to you another chance to get rich quick- that is, get him rich quick.

There is a saying that it takes all kinds of people to make up the world, and it is true. But it does not follow that I have to be the victim of their variety of influences. God did not create me in the image of a worm, but in his own image, and God is no worm. God made me like unto the Temple at Jerusalem. ~~[illegible]~~ Outer court, inner Court and Holy of Holies.

Into the outer court all the people could come, Gentiles as well as Jews. Into the inner court only the worshippers could gather. And into the Holy of Hoiles only the priests could enter.

The world made up of all kinds of people is my outer court. The world of my own choosing is my inner court and whin that inner court there is a holy of holies into which only my God and certain loved ones can enter, the real bishops of my soul.

And God has given me a lock and key that enables me to protect the two inner courts from being defiled by any from the outer court, and that lock and key form our text this morning. Read 1 Thess.5:21 Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.

1. First, I learn from an application of the text to a consideration of such vultures as we mentioned at the beginni that a Dollar is a Dollar, no more and no less, and cannot be overworked.

A dollare is about good for 8% at the very most, an and any offer of more than 8% might wisely be questione and challenged as a get-rich-quick scheme of some human bird trying to catch an early worm.

2. I further conclude from an application of the text that even more than the dollar Time is Time, Opportunity is opportunity and Ability is ability, but with this difference. When a dollar is lost another may be earned to take its place. But when Time has passed by it is gone foreve When Opportunity leaves us, it may never return, and when we fail to develop and apply our personal abilities they

3. become atrofied and die beyond the ppwer of ressurection.

3. The principle of proving all things and holding fast to that which is good applies to persons as well as things.

Because a vulture comes to me with his enticing proposal it does not follow that I have to play the roll of a worm.

Listen to me, if every citizen of the U.S A. would obey the 18th amendment there could be no boot-leggers. No carrion no vultures. No worms no birds. If you refuse to be a worm and always act the part of a man the vultures will learn to leave you alone. Boot-leggers dont come to (me

It is tune that a perfectly good girl is sometimes kidnapped by force and mistreated, but by far the majorit of girls go wrong becuase they have that within them that attracts the vultures of society.

If you allow your thinking to be controlled by you passions and desires, then you are so muc carrion to the vultures of the human world. But if you control your desires and your passions by the mental application of proving all things and holding fast to that which i[illegible] and if you will back up your reasoning with the power of your will, fortified by the grace of God, then you will offer nothing to vultures and they will leave you alone.

Young man, if among those whom you have permitted to enter the inner temple of your frimndships there is one who invites you to go with him to a good time of hooch and girls, banish him at once to the outer court of your acquaintances- tell him in no uncertain languag that you will not sell yourself so cheap and that if he is that kind of a friend, you will have to draw the line.

Young lady, if ever your boy friend invites you to go with him to some questionable amusement, if ever he askes you to do anything you know you ought not to do, if you value your self-respect or the respect of your parents, tell that boy friend of yours to immeedately take you home, and then never trust him again. Dont be easy carrion to the vultures that are ever ready to take advantage of you. If you will fortify yourselves with a high standard of self-respect, the vultures will leave you alone, for they go after only their prey, the easy marks, the worms, the weaklings.